

Cupid's Corner

A&E / PAGE 8

Playing for a date

The faithful flock to Mass

ON CAMPUS / PAGE 9

Ash Wednesday

No action on proposed sites for UTB campus

UT System board of regents considering 12 locations

One of the 12 proposed sites for the new UT-Brownsville campus is composed of three plots of land, some of which are located south-west of the university's current location.



SOURCE: CAMERON COUNTY ENGINEERING DEPT.

By Marlane Rodriguez
THE COLLEGIAN

The University of Texas System board of regents took no action on 12 proposed sites for the new UT-Brownsville campus during its meeting last Thursday in Austin. According to the regents' agenda book, the sites are located within the city limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city. They

PANEL DISCUSSION
"A University for all Centuries" and the "wrenching" changes of the transition.
Page 3

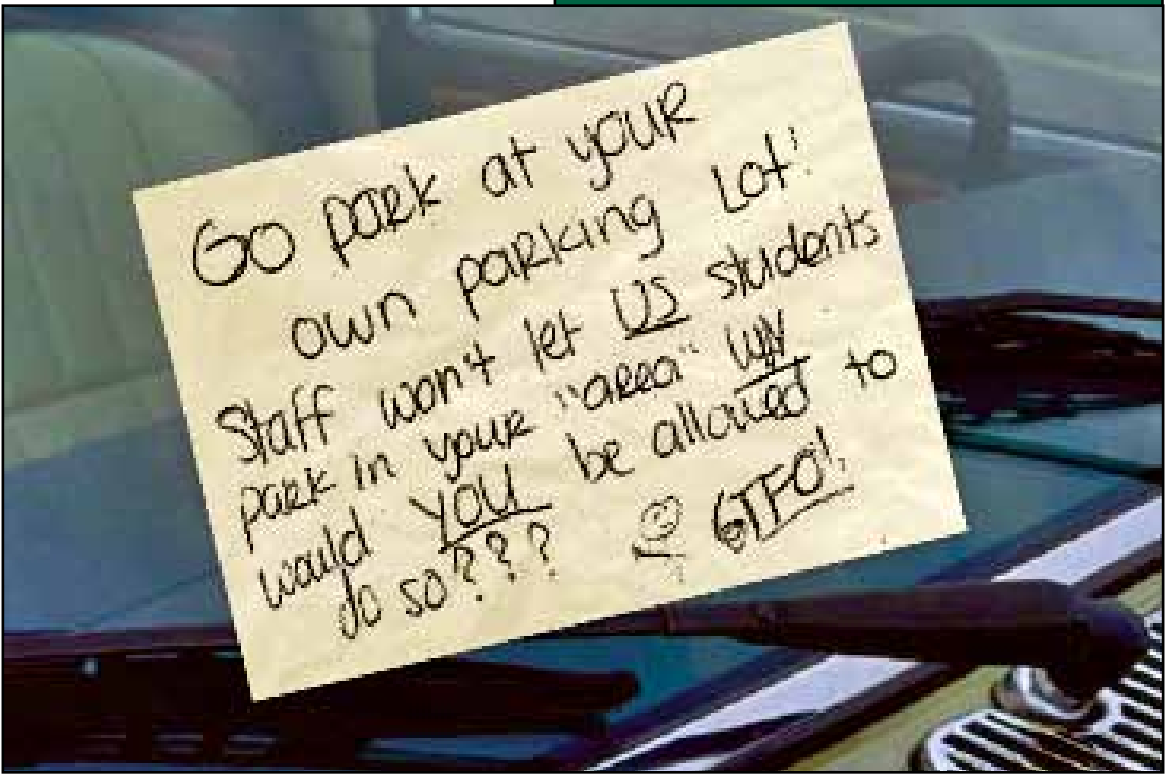
were submitted in response to the request for proposals for the acquisition of property to be used as the site for the new UTB campus. Calls to UT-Brownsville President Juliet V. Garcia and Provost Alan Artibise after the meeting were not returned. On Friday, a person who answered the phone in See SITES, Page 13

How rude!

Student leaves disrespectful note on staff member's windshield

By Kaila Contreras
THE COLLEGIAN

The hunt for a parking space on campus has led to rude notes and verbal attacks. Last semester, Beatriz Becerra-Barckholtz, director of the Student Success Center, found a note on the windshield of her vehicle left by a student who mistakenly believed she had parked in the wrong lot. "I had checked ahead of time what were the parking lots that permitted staff," Becerra-Barckholtz said. "I knew that I was parked in the right place, so when I saw the note on the windshield of my car, I didn't think that it was going to be bad. So when I read it, I was like 'OK, that's kind of [not] nice.'" The note reads: "Go park at your own parking lot! Staff won't let us students park in your 'area.' Why would you be allowed to do so???"



JOE MOLINA/ILLUSTRATION

you be allowed to do so???

GTF0!"

Becerra-Barckholtz said she was surprised when she received the note because she knew that she was parked in the right place and the student should have known as well. The director parked in Lot X-1, which is a general parking area between

Jackson Street and Ridgely Road. Becerra-Barckholtz never reported the incident to Campus Police and still doesn't know which student left the note on her car. "I didn't report it because I didn't think it was a big deal," she said. "... And then I thought, 'Well, maybe I should because, obviously,

they knew I was a staff member." Junior mathematics major Jose Rodolfo Vera said he has been in an argument over a parking space, but just "let it go." He believes there aren't enough parking lots on campus. Campus Police Sgt. Mario Martinez said parking-

See PARKING, Page 8

A glimpse into a writer's life

By Rick Saldivar
THE COLLEGIAN

The audience listened in awe as novelist Manuel Luis Martinez recollected the story of his life Feb. 7 in the Student Union's Gran Sal3n. "Writers Live," a series sponsored by UTB/ T S C ' s Student Life department and the College of Liberal Arts, invited Martinez to talk about his background and share some of his skills with students and faculty. Born and raised in San Antonio, the 46-year-old author, earned bachelor's degrees in history and English from St. Mary's University. Martinez left Texas in 1989 to pursue a master's degree in creative writing at Ohio State University. "I'd never seen snow before and it was a really brutal winter that year," he told an audience See WRITER, Page 12



Manuel Luis Martinez

Monday

H: 78, L: 64

Tuesday

H: 77, L: 53

Wednesday

H: 70, L: 50

Thursday

H: 72, L: 53

forecast.weather.gov

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Change in the SGA

New adviser announced for the senate

By Alex Rodriguez
THE COLLEGIAN

During last Tuesday’s Student Government Association meeting, Judicial Affairs Coordinator David Marquez announced that he will no longer be an adviser to the SGA and that Student Life Director Sergio Martinez will be his successor.

Asked why there was a change, Vice President for Student Affairs Hilda Silva replied: “We are going through some changes in our division ... so I’m asking David Marquez to get involved with some other duties that require a little bit more of his time.”

She selected Martinez as an adviser because he “has served as an SGA adviser in the past.”

“So he has experience working with the organization, plus in his current position as director of Student Life he has communication with all the clubs,” Silva said.

University Scholars Coordinator Heather Olague will remain as an adviser to the SGA. Olague and Martinez can provide the support the SGA needs to move forward, Silva said.

“With all the changes that are happening to the institution because of the current separation between UTB and TSC, I think our vice president is trying to optimize SGA, so they don’t feel they are not being supported, and at the same time free up judicial affairs folks because of the dean of students leaving, [which] has left a lot of demand for those services, and that is David



STACY G. FOUND/COLLEGIAN

Judicial Affairs Coordinator David Marquez announces last Tuesday that he will no longer be an adviser to the Student Government Association. Marquez will be replaced by Student Life Director Sergio Martinez.

Marquez’s primary function,” Martinez said.

Silva said the role of the adviser is to help advance any projects the SGA is working on while following proper protocol. They also make sure to involve SGA with various other activities on campus as much as possible.

“I have been fortunate to serve as adviser for the SGA for about three and a half years and it has been a good experience for me,” Marquez said. “Seeing the students coming in their early years and watching them develop as leaders on this campus and as individuals was one of the greatest experiences with the SGA.”

No other business was discussed during the meeting.



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

Members of the Ocelot Tennis Club include (front row, from left) Oliver Salander, President Heidi Collis and Vice President Andrea García. Middle row: Guillermo Olalde, Michael Salinas and Tony Olalde. Back row: Joshua Barker, Chris Laird and Daniel Medrano.

Name: Ocelot Tennis
Established: 2011
Purpose: To establish a network of students working together to maintain a healthy lifestyle with an emphasis on recreational exercise and encourage a greater interest in the sport to get a network of students interested in competitive tennis.
President: Heidi Collis
Adviser: Raul Cano, intramural/sports club coordinator for the Campus Recreation Department
Vice President: Andrea García
Treasurer: Daniel Piñeda

Community Service: Helps run the USTA Men’s Pro Circuit Tournament and provides tennis lessons to people under age 18.
Meetings: 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Brownsville Tennis Center
Membership requirements: Must have at least a 2.0 grade-point average and be in good standing with the university.
Dues: None
For more information: call Collis at 579-4392.
--Compiled by Brenda Lopez

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to Campus Police between Jan. 27 and 31.


Sunday, Jan. 27
6:30 p.m.: A man received a criminal trespass warning after a Campus Police officer discovered he was a registered sex offender. The officer noticed the man inside a Ford Ranger by the Center for Early Childhood Studies. The man said he was working for a pavement company that was working in the Catholic Diocese next door. A Campus Police lieutenant advised a staff member of the Catholic Diocese and the director of the childhood center of the man’s criminal background. The paving company contacted the director of the childhood center the next day and told her that its work at the Diocese would be completed that day.
Monday, Jan. 28
3:15 p.m.: A student was transported to Valley Baptist Medical Center-Brownsville via ambulance after she went to Student Health Services requesting medical attention. Staff at Student Health Services referred her to the emergency room.
Tuesday, Jan. 29
4:30 p.m.: A student was arrested on charges of unlawful restraint and dating violence.
Wednesday, Jan. 30
8:50 a.m.: A student was reportedly having seizures and could not answer basic questions in Casa Bella. The student was on her bed and was disoriented and unable to speak. The student’s roommate at the student housing complex said the student drank one beer and two other alcoholic beverages the night before. Campus Police found medications inside the student’s purse and were later advised that they were for her seizures. The student and the student’s father refused emergency medical services.
4:46 p.m.: A staff member was transported to Valley Baptist Medical Center-Brownsville after he was struck on the head by a ceiling grid while working in the Life and Health Sciences biology wing. He suffered a small laceration to the front of his head.
10:15 p.m.: A student was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana after a

residential adviser reported smoke inside a building at Casa Bella. As he was inspecting a room in the student housing complex, the Campus Police officer smelled burnt marijuana. The officer found marijuana residue on a student’s bed. The student was asked for identification and said he kept it in his wallet, which was inside a drawer. As he opened the drawer, the officer noticed a grinder with marijuana residue inside and the student handed it to the officer and told him it had marijuana inside. The student was later transported to the Carrizales-Rucker Detention Center. While he was being booked in the correctional center, officers there found the student had .00415 ounces of marijuana wrapped in a napkin inside his pocket. The Campus Police officer said the student was wearing “skinny” jeans that hid his pockets while he was searching the student. He was then also charged with prohibited substances and items in a correctional facility, a third-degree felony.
Thursday, Jan. 31
8:05 a.m.: A man received a criminal trespass warning after he was reportedly offering free tutoring services to women only on the Paseo by Tandy and Cortez halls. The man said he had no professional experience as a tutor. He was advised by the Campus Police officer that he was not welcome on campus and that his conduct was unacceptable.
8:52 p.m.: A student was cited for minor in possession of alcohol after a Campus Police officer noticed an individual inside a BMW placing bottles on the ground next to the car in Lot O. The individual, later identified as a UTB/TSC student, quickly closed his car door and left as soon as he saw the officer approaching. The officer then conducted a traffic stop for operating a vehicle without lights. The student was found to be in possession of alcoholic beverages and was given a warning for not having his lights on. A copy of the report was forwarded to the Dean of Students Office.
--Compiled by Samantha Ruiz


Nominate a student leader for the Leadership Ring

“A Symbol of Learning”

Two student leaders will be chosen based on their academic performance, leadership at UTB and TSC and service to their community.



The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, in partnership with Balfour College Jewelry Company and the UTB and TSC Student Government Association (SGA), will provide two official class ring(s) to graduating senior(s), graduate students and/or recent alumni who have excelled in academics, leadership activities and service to the campus and/or the community-at-large.



Deadline to submit a nomination or application packet:

4 p.m. Friday, March 1, 2013

Applications are available at:
www.utb.edu/ring

For more information, contact the Dean of Students Office at 882-5141

Chess members France bound

3 to compete in individual tournament; team to conduct group class Friday

By Samantha Ruiz

THE COLLEGIAN

Au revoir! UTB/TSC Chess Team members Mauricio Flores, Katerina Nemcova and Daniela De la Parra will be leaving to the 29th International Open of Cappelle-la-Grande in northern France on Wednesday.

Chess Coach Bartłomiej “Bartek” Macieja said the tournament is very strong and is hoping the players will learn from it and be able to eliminate their mistakes for future events.

“The tournament in France is just a training tournament for them,” Macieja said. “They go there to practice, to meet good players, good opposition. Even if they lose some games, later they will come back, we will analyze and for the most important tournament they will be most prepared.”

Mauricio Flores, a senior and graduate student majoring in mathematics and physics who is on the UTB/TSC’s “A” Chess Team, said the competition in France is one of the best open tournaments in the world.

The grand prize is 3,000 euros, equivalent to about \$4,000 in the U.S.

Flores said the tournament pays for the hotel and food for all the title players; the players would only have to pay the cost to get to the tournament and back.

“The tournament is a very good quality,” he said. “There are no tournaments like this in the U.S.”

Flores said he is reviewing past mistakes in games he has played and practicing in preparation for the competition.

He hopes to gain experience through the tournament and possibly beat some grandmasters.



JOE MOLINA/ILLUSTRATION

Flores, De la Parra, Max Cornejo and Aura Salazar will also compete in the UT-Dallas Spring FIDE Open and Blitz in Dallas from March 9 to 13.

Flores said he is hoping to reach an all-time peak for his chess career in this tournament.

His current rating is 2481 and he said the historical highest rating is 2872.

The grand prize at this tournament is \$10,000.

Do you want to know how to checkmate? The team will conduct a UTB Chess Academy Group Class from 5:30-8 p.m. Friday in the Life and Health Sciences Building.

There is no age limit, Chess Program Director Russell Harwood said. However, he said the team usually gets students from kindergarten and up.

The class is \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional sibling.

Another class will be offered April 19.

To register for the classes, call 882-5761 or 882-5762, or e-mail Harwood at russell.harwood@utb.edu.

The deadline to register for this Friday’s class is Thursday.

Chess Team members and Macieja will assist in the instruction.

Harwood said the team will host two free classes for females, but days and times have not been determined.

“We’re trying to promote more retention in girls,” Harwood said. “We’re doing some special stuff for girls to try and get them involved.”

He said one class will be offered to second- and third-graders and up while the second class will be open to everyone.

Professor details changes in faculty governance

By Brenda Lopez

THE COLLEGIAN

In the panel discussion “A University for All Centuries,” a UTB/TSC faculty member delivered a history of the evolution of faculty governance and the “wrenching” changes the school has faced in its transition from a community college to a community university—and now the end of the partnership.

Master Technical Instructor William C. Davis was among four faculty members who spoke at the Feb. 8 College of Liberal Arts Faculty Symposium in the SET-B third-floor conference room.

Davis, who was hired by Texas Southmost College in 1975, presented the lecture titled “Faculty Governance: From TSC to UTB to UT Consolidation.”

He said TSC had a tenured system when he joined the school, similar to the American Association of University Professors style.

“Faculty were expected to be qualified, experienced, dedicated and loyal,” Davis said.

The tenure committee consisted of three elected faculty members and two appointed administrators.

“We would have pretty important discussions and we would vote, and it never tended to break down [along] party lines,” Davis said, adding that he was a member of the committee for several years.

TSC also had a faculty association that



RICK SALDIVAR/COLLEGIAN

Master Technical Instructor William Davis explains the evolution of faculty governance at UTB/TSC during the College of Liberal Arts Faculty Symposium, held Feb. 8 in the SET-B third-floor conference room.

belonged to the Texas Junior College Teachers Association and was involved in Texas Southmost College board politics.

But in 1986 there was a “revolution.”

“An administration which was fairly autocratic, somewhat parochial perhaps in its scope, was thrown out of office,” Davis said, adding that it took a while because of the board members’ staggered terms.

“But it wound up completely throwing over the administrative structure and replacing it with an administrative

See **FACULTY**, Page 13

Dr. Franco Reyes Jácome

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The human element



By Rick Saldivar
THE COLLEGIAN

With the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI on Feb. 11, I have grown increasingly concerned with loss of religion around the world.

As a child, I began learning the distinction between right and wrong based on principles found in religion. It is not until I grew older, however, that I crafted my explanations as to why things are acceptable or unacceptable.

As I matured, I began to define what was right from experiences that have stimulated my beliefs—whether those experiences are positive or not. It was not until then that I was able to decide when wrong became right. Not all people, however, will agree on when that point is reached.

Does this mean that, as the values imposed by religion are lost, the boundaries of the mores in society become vague?

For many centuries, religion has set standards, morals and norms that have united and divided people. Between 1990 and 2008, there was a 7 percent increase in the number of Americans having no religion, according to the American Religious Identification Survey.

When man estranges himself from his faith, he finds revival in the freedom and meaning that other philosophies have to offer.

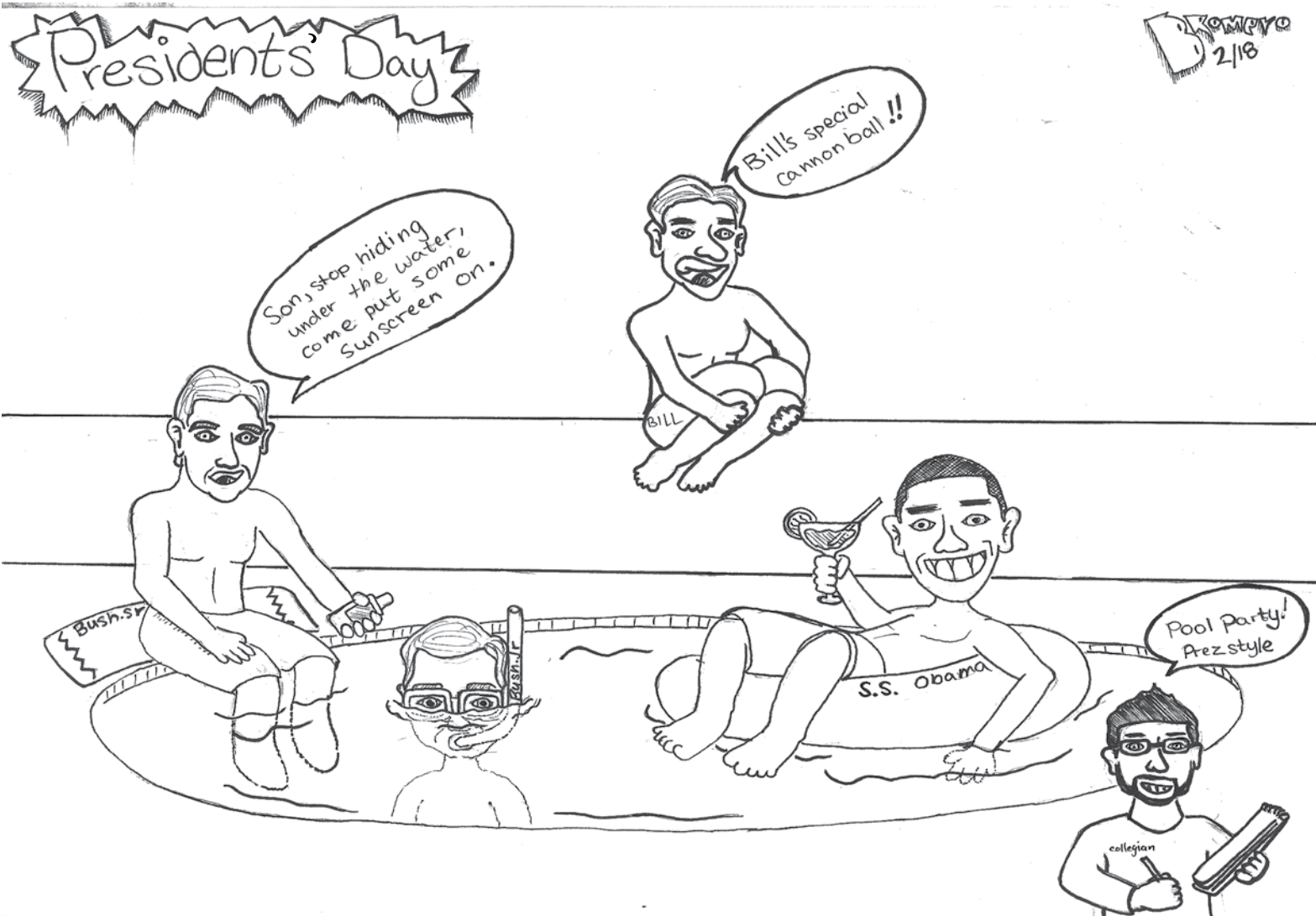
For example, as an existentialist, man becomes responsible for giving meaning to his own life. Since man is stimulated by his experiences in life, he defines what is right and creates his own conclusions.

Becoming their own god, men will face a larger force separating them—that of individuality. With the doctrines established by religion diminishing, it is imperative that we do not forget the connection that we share as humans.

We must look past individuals' physiques and connect with them at a deeper level—at a compassionate level. I would like to say I live in the greatest country in the world because we emphasize the strengths of individuals through support and forget their flaws due to their redemption (like we have).

The elusive norms in today's society create a situation in America that could result in the loss of that which makes us American, but more importantly, human.

No matter where you come from, you are an important addition to society as an individual. It is nice to know that someone appreciates you for who you are and welcomes you with open arms.



How are you observing Lent?

I Think

"I'm observing Lent in the sense that I want to be a better Catholic and I will try to behave better and maybe eat healthier."
Marina Hernandez
Exercise science sophomore



"I'm actually going to not eat meat this Wednesday and every Friday coming up and I'm going to give up sweets, probably."
Juan Hernandez
Biology sophomore



"Well, I'm going to give up procrastinating, so I can learn some material better for a retest and everything. I notice I do it a lot."
Ashley Hernandez
Nursing junior



--Compiled by Alex Rodriguez
--Photos by Bryan Romero

BROWNSVILLE

A failure in leadership?

For the last four years President Obama has faced criticism from Republicans and other organizations. A main focus of this criticism has been his inability, or incompetence, to lead the nation. To understand his critics, we first need to understand what a leader is.

A leader is "a person or thing that leads, a guiding or directing head, as of an army, movement or political group." The office of the president of the United States we can all agree fits this definition of a leader. As president

of the United States is Barack Obama then leading? If he is, he is doing a poor job of it.

Though I disagree with the president on many of his policies, his inability to lead has become drastically evident by the statements made by his secretary of defense, Leon Panetta, to the senate committee overseeing the attacks on the [U.S.] consulate in Libya that resulted in the death of the ambassador and three Marines.

According to Panetta, President Obama was informed of the attack 90 minutes before his departure to Las Vegas for a fundraiser. Obama decided to attend the fundraiser instead of dealing with the situation. Panetta said the president did not even bother to

check in throughout the evening on the events occurring in Libya.

A good leader knows [and] understands his priorities. A good leader puts the welfare of those under him before his own. A good leader is strong, affirmative and ethical. Unfortunately, our president has failed to demonstrate these qualities by his actions.

I would advise my classmates, the future leaders of tomorrow, to strive to be strong leaders, leaders who will have a positive impact in this world and do what is right.

Ezequiel Berrones
Senior international business major
Via Facebook

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

>>>**Policy:** Letters to the editor must include the name, classification and phone number of the author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in *The Collegian* are those of writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Collegian* or UTB/TSC administrators. The editor reserves the right to edit the letters. Send your letters to collegian@utb.edu.

First lady plugs ‘Beasts of the Southern Wild’

Darlene Superville
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—Michelle Obama last Wednesday gushed over the Oscar-nominated film “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” calling it one of the “most powerful and most important” movies in a long time in a ringing endorsement delivered less than two weeks before this month’s Academy Awards ceremony.

The first lady commented during a Black History Month workshop at the White House for about 80 middle- and high-school students from the District of Columbia and New Orleans. The movie was set in Louisiana.

Students saw the film, then got to question director Benh Zeitlin and actors Dwight Henry and 9-year-old Quvenzhané Wallis. Wallis stars in the mythical tale of a 6-year-old girl named Hushpuppy struggling to survive in the southern Delta with her ailing father as a storm approaches. Her world consists of a tight-knit, shantytown community on the bayou with wild animals, both real and imagined.

The film won four Oscar nominations, including for best picture, best actress and directing.

Mrs. Obama said she saw the 93-minute film over the summer with a large group of friends and family who ranged in age from 3 to 73, and they were enthralled by it.

“It’s rare these days to find a movie that can so completely and utterly captivate such a broad audience and that was one of the things that struck me about this movie,” she said. “It



MANUEL BALCE CENETA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

First lady Michelle Obama speaks last Wednesday in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, D.C., in celebration of Black History Month, welcoming middle and high school students from the District of Columbia area and New Orleans taking part in an interactive student workshop with the cast and crew of the film “Beasts of the Southern Wild.”

managed to be beautiful, joyful and devastatingly honest.”

The first lady said “Beasts” makes viewers “think deeply about the people we love in our lives who make us who we are” and shows the strength of communities and the power they give others to overcome obstacles.

“It also tells a compelling story of poverty and devastation but also of hope and love in the midst of some great challenges,” she said.

Mrs. Obama also said it was “cool” that “there are so many important lessons to learn

in that little 93 minutes.”

“That a director and a set of writers and producers can say so much in just 93 minutes,” the first lady told the students. “And it doesn’t always happen in a movie, quite frankly, but this one did it, and that’s why I love this movie so much and why our team wanted to bring it here to the White House and share it with all of you.”

Mrs. Obama also used the film to inspire her young audience, noting that Wallis was just 5 years old when she auditioned for the

part and Henry, who runs a bakery, had never acted a day in his life.

“You all have to really be focused on preparing yourselves for the challenges and the opportunities that will lie ahead for all of you. You’ve got to be prepared,” she said, urging them to go to school, do their homework every day and follow her husband’s example by reading everything they get their hands on.

ON CAMPUS

BLACK HISTORY FILMS

The Student Union will host screenings of select documentaries on African American History in the Student Union’s La Sala. **Tuesday:** 12:15 p.m., “Discharged without Honor”; 2:15 p.m., “Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years, Awakenings (1954-1956)”; 3:15 p.m., “Eyes on the Prize, America’s Civil Rights Years, Fighting Back (1957-1962)”; **Wednesday:** 12:15 p.m., “Eyes on the Prize, American Civil Rights Years, Ain’t Scared of Your Jails (1960-1961)”; 1:15 p.m., “Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years, No Easy Walk (1961-1963)”; **Thursday:** 12:15 p.m., “Eyes on the Prize, America’s Civil Rights Years, Mississippi: Is This America? (1962-1964)”; 1:15 p.m., “Eyes on the Prize, America’s Civil Rights Years, Bridge to Freedom (1965)”

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THE COLLEGIAN

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A SpawGlass construction company carpenter smoothes out cement Feb. 1 for a sidewalk being added near the Biomedical Research Building. The new biomedical research facility will consist of about 7,815 gross square feet when completed, according to Veronica Mendez, associate vice president for Facilities and Planning. The new construction will be home to faculty researcher offices, six labs and support space to supplement the 12-research-lab facility within the Biomedical Research and Health Professions Building, Mendez said. The \$4.9 million facility (funded by a \$4 million National Institutes of Health grant and Higher Education Assistance funds) will help expand the UT-Brownsville biomedical research presence in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It is scheduled to be completed in May.

A honeybee gathers nectar from a powder puff flower (*Calliandra haematocephala*) Feb. 1 outside Cortez Hall. The honeybee collects nectar from up to 1,500 flowers (until it is full), according to the Beeswax Co. website (www.beeswaxco.com), then breaks down the complex sugars of the nectar.

Rick Saldivar/Collegian Photos



Nectar collector

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOCIAL WORK INFO SESSION

Thursday: An information session on the **University of Texas-Pan American's** master of science in social work program will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in Cardenas Hall South 117. UTPA representatives will provide information about admission requirements, financial aid and scholarships. For more information, call 665-3661.

POETRY SLAM

Feb. 27: The **Office of Student Life** will host a **Poetry Slam** from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Student Union veranda. The event will feature **Odd?Rod**, an author, entertainer and poet. Admission is free. The first 15 students to sign up will have the chance to win cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25. For more information, call 882-5111.

‘LA CABEZA DE VILLA’

Feb. 28: The **UTB/TSC History Department** and the **Mexican Consulate in Brownsville** will host the presentation of **UNAM's** history professor **Pedro Salmerón Sanguinés'** novel “La Cabeza de Villa”

at 10 a.m. in the Education and Business Complex's Salón Cassia. English interpretation will be provided. Admission is free. For more information, call **UTB/TSC Professor Emeritus of History Anthony K. Knopp** at 882-8258.

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

March 11-13: The **Center for Civic Engagement**, the **Office of Student Life** and the **City of Brownsville Parks and Recreation Department** are organizing an **Alternative Spring Break** for students, faculty and staff to serve the Buena Vida neighborhood and surrounding neighborhoods from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 11 to 13 at the **Brownsville Parks and Recreation Department**. Activities will include health screenings, fitness activities, arts and crafts and education about the environment and health. Volunteers are asked to sign up by the end of February. For more information, call center Administrative Assistant **Estela Martinez** at 882-4300.

SPRING CYCLOBIA 2013

March 17: The **City of**

Brownsville will host its second **Cyclobia** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants will travel a seven-mile route by either walking or riding a bike. The route will begin at **Dean Porter Park** and proceed on Seventh Street to Elizabeth Street, then end at **University Boulevard**. Along the way there will be *reclovías*, or recreation areas, at **Washington Park**, the **UTB/TSC REK Center** and **Lincoln Park**. The *reclovías* will feature live music, food vendors and healthy activities. The purpose of the event is to motivate people to be active and to live a healthy life. For more information, call **Transforming Texas Grant Project Specialist Maria Jose Cavazos** at 547-6530.

COMMUNICATION EXPO

March 21: The **Communication Department** will host a **Communication Expo** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Union's Gran Salón. The event is to promote UTB/TSC's communication Program to undeclared majors and prospective students. There will be

more than 10 booths that will offer information about the program, such as what courses to take, types of clubs and degree plan. The expo will feature clubs and organizations affiliated with the field of communication, such as the university's student newspaper **The Collegian** and **UTB Radio**. For more information, call Associate Professor of Communication **John Cook** at 882-8851.

BUSY MOMS SUPPORT GROUP

Student Health Services invites **UTB/TSC** students who are mothers to participate in the **Busy Moms Support Group** noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday in Cortez Hall 237 until May 17. The purpose of the group is to educate mothers in parenting skills, child development, mental health issues, learning processes, health and safety for children and wellness and health for mothers. This Thursday's topic will be “Understanding Teen Issues and Explaining Healthy Sexuality.” For more information, call 882-3896.

-- Compiled by Brenda Lopez

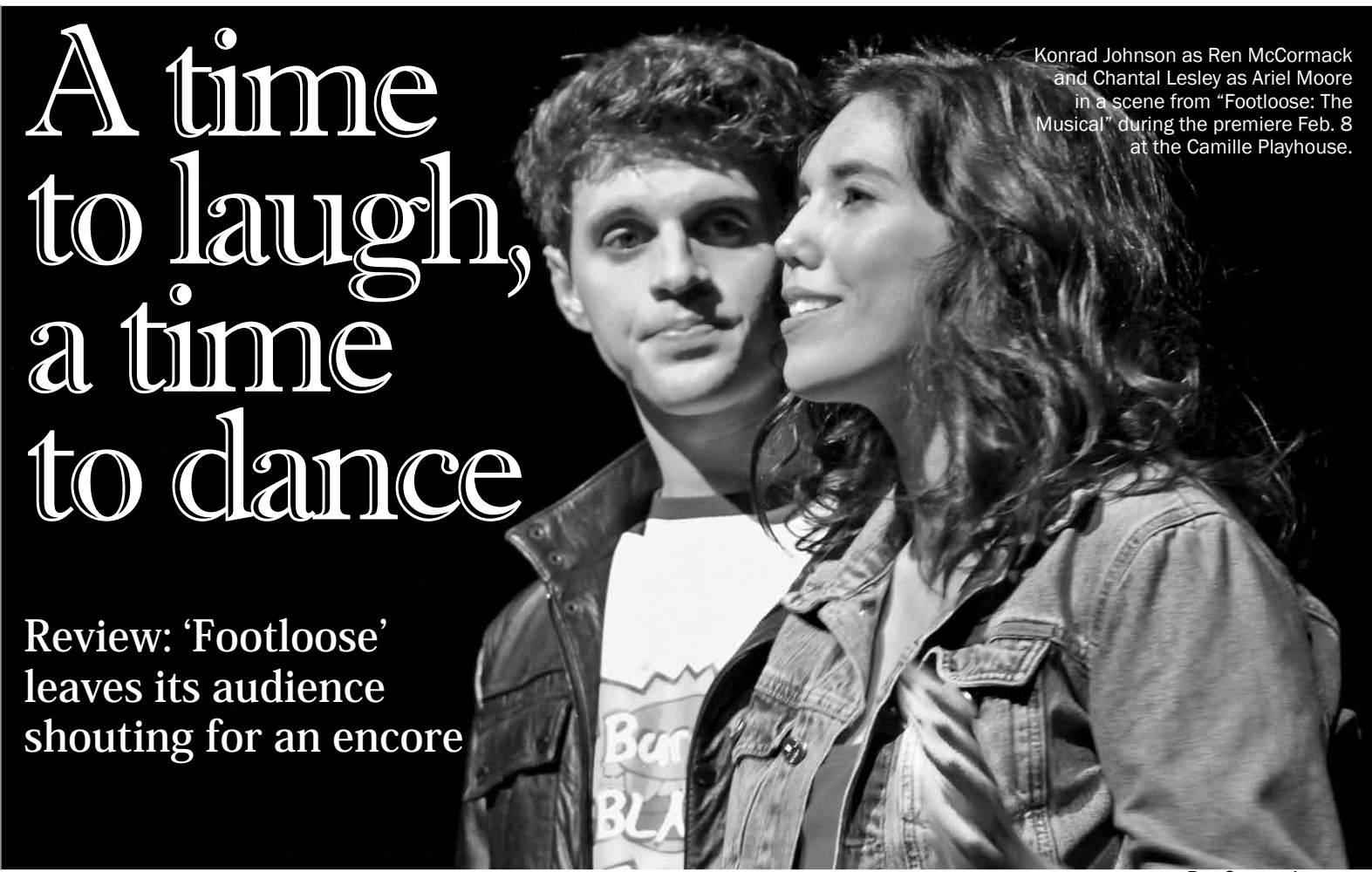
By Rick Saldivar
THE COLLEGIAN

I walked out of the sold-out premiere of “Footloose: The Musical” at the Camille Playhouse yelling, “I thought this was a party, not a play! *Let’s dance!*”

If you were not part of the three consecutive sold-out performances of the musical directed by Eric Vera the weekend of Feb. 8, you had better been blessed with the opportunity to have caught the enthusiastic cast last weekend.

Ren McCormack (played by Konrad Johnson), after moving to the small, conservative town of Bomont, heals the wounds of the town left from a tragedy that struck one night after a dance. The law of the town, the Rev. Moore (Ronnie Rodriguez), selfishly prohibits any dancing in the town. The reverend tries to keep his wild daughter, Ariel (Chantal Lesley), under too many restrictions and she falls for the sympathetic Ren. Slowly, Ren, Ariel and the rest of the high school seniors in Bomont persuade Moore to face his demons and dance.

The entire cast was perfectly selected for each role. With the audience cheerfully standing, clapping, asking for more, and complimenting the cast throughout the play, one could not argue about the success of the premiere.



Konrad Johnson as Ren McCormack and Chantal Lesley as Ariel Moore in a scene from “Footloose: The Musical” during the premiere Feb. 8 at the Camille Playhouse.

Review: ‘Footloose’ leaves its audience shouting for an encore

Rick Saldivar/Collegian

Kevin Bacon would have been honored to have the energetic Konrad Johnson take his lead as Ren in the 1984 film “Footloose.”

The reverend’s daughter, who is played by Chantal Lesley with playful vibrancy, emphasized Moore’s frustration with her behavior.

While Johnson and Lesley

led the cast in an enjoyable performance, it was the scenes of Rusty (Sandra Singlaterry) and Willard Hewitt (Ryan A. Williams) that stole the spotlight.

Singlaterry’s scenes always revolved around her lively singing and dancing. “Let’s Hear It for the Boy” defined the

reason she played the role of Rusty. By then, the entire cast had mesmerized the audience.

Williams’ talent in the song “Mama Says” had, without a doubt, a bigger impact on the audience than that of the 1998 Broadway musical. He was certainly born to be on that beautifully decorated stage!

“... Forget that MTV remake,” notes Eric Vera, executive artistic director, in the play’s program. “The Camille will take you right back to the ’80s rockin’ rhythm of its Oscar and Tony-nominated top 40 score, in a way that only live theater can!”

Promise well kept, Vera! Kudos!

HOROSCOPES ‘It’s not Héctor’s fault; he just writes what the planets tell him.’

By Héctor Aguilar
THE COLLEGIAN

Aries (March 21-April 19)-An important financial transaction is headed your way. Be on the lookout! Challenge your talents this week and share your ideas with those at work, as they may prove fruitful. Schedule some time with your friends on the weekend after you’ve worked hard.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)-There are many activities going on at this time, so pace yourself. It’s important that you take things one at a time or you will risk being overwhelmed. Your finances are looking good, but whether that lasts is up to you. Your love life is heating up more than a summer day in Arizona.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)-You’re a fun person to be around. Your energy is contagious and people seek your company. This week you need to prioritize things so that everything goes smoothly. Guard your financial situation well or you will risk hitting rock bottom.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)-Leave your desire for routine aside and discover creative approaches to daily tasks. Your devotion to work has helped you advance in many situations. Be frugal if you want to improve your financial situation.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)-You like to be the center of attention, so try out for a part in a play or in an activity that will satisfy your need for this. Dodge others’ insults and negative remarks; don’t let those things bring you down. To get the best out of this week be sure to sport blue tennis shoes.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)-Don’t over-analyze things, Virgo, or you will get behind on your tasks this week. You should find ways to contribute to your community; after all, your community is a reflection of you. You frequently overwork yourself, so be sure to find some time to rest as well. Plan a date with your significant other this week and, if you’re single, frequent a place where you can meet your future love.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)-Something new is approaching rapidly. Be prepared to be impressed this week. Listen carefully to what others tell you because their advice could prove surprisingly useful to you. It may seem like you’re all out of things to read buy new material will come your way in the coming weeks.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)-The key to success is to go to sleep with a can-do attitude. Roll out of bed like a samurai, not a three-toed sloth, and the difference will be remarkable. Your peers will notice the change in your attitude and you will likely receive compliments. Finish the week by choosing a good book for this weekend.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)-You need to take a more relaxed approach to your peers. Look into breathing exercises because there is no place for an overpowering attitude. Things are imperfect and you must accept that. Your financial situation is just where you wanted it. Your love life will exhibit big changes unless you improve your communication with your partner.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan 19)-Your concern for others earns you big points with your friends. It’s time to make important plans for your future. Sit down and brainstorm ideas of what it is you want for your life. If you’re single, a special person will be making an appearance relatively soon.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)-Consider increasing your physical activity—that is, if you’re not sick. Also it will be important to consume fruits and vegetables and limit your intake of sugar. What you do in the next two weeks will affect your path the rest of the year.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)-After feeling under the weather, it seems the sun finally comes out. Be prepared for something positive to come your way. Increase your intake of black tea. Make plans for the coming months to ensure a lifeboat when the ship sinks.

DON’T MISS THESE

FACULTY ART EXHIBIT
Tuesday: The Gallery at Rusteberg Hall will exhibit the work of Professor **Carlos G. Gómez** and Lecturers **Angel Cabrales, Stephen Hawks** and **David Ransom**. The exhibit will open with a reception at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$1. For more information, call 882-7097.

ARTOPIA 2013
Feb. 25: The deadline to submit artwork for **Artopia 2013** is 5 p.m. Feb. 25 in Student Union 1.20. For more information, call the Office of Student Affairs at 882-5033.

MARIACHI VARGAS
March 3: The Mariachi Vargas will perform at 7 p.m. March 3 in the Arts Center. The Mariachi Vargas is the winner of numerous awards, including “World’s Best Mariachi,” and is universally regarded as the definitive mariachi ensemble. For tickets (\$49-\$79), visit UTBTickets.com or call 882-8587.

‘FIDDLER ON THE ROOF’
March 7: “**Fiddler on the Roof**,” one of America’s most loved musicals which is based on the stories of **Sholem Aleichem**, will be presented at 7 p.m. as part of the Arts Center’s Signature Series For tickets (\$39-\$75), call 882-7750.

‘MITOS, CONJUROS Y ALABANZAS’
The **Brownsville Museum of Fine Art**, 660 Ringgold St., hosts the exhibit “**Mitos, Conjuros y Alabanzas**,” by Mexican artist **Adelia Sayeg**, through April 5. Admission is \$5. On Wednesdays, admission is free after 5 p.m. For more information, call 542-0941.

--Compiled by Cori Aiken

Whom did



she choose?

BRYAN ROMERO/
COLLEGIAN PHOTOS

Senior communication major Miriam Castro asks a question to her prospective dates, senior nursing major Nathaniel Cervantes (left) and sophomore music education major Jean-Luc Cañas, during “Got Game?” a version of the old TV “Dating Game” show, held Valentine’s Day in the Student Union’s La Sala. The game, sponsored by UTB Radio, was part of the Cupid’s Corner event sponsored by Student Life and the Campus Activities Board that also featured chocolate and *chamoy* fountains, fruit and snacks, a mock altar where couples took photos, and live music. Castro chose Cervantes and Cañas. They were awarded a gift certificate to Cheddar’s restaurant.

PARKING

Continued from Page 1

related incidents have been at a minimum this semester.

“The only issue we really have is students parking in staff [parking lots], people abusing the handicap permits. ... It’s been a long time since we’ve had an actual complaint of students or anyone fighting over parking spaces,” Martinez said.

If you feel threatened by someone over a parking space, just walk away and notify Campus Police immediately, he advises.

“Walk away. Get some distance and just contact us,” Martinez said. “... We’re there to prevent anything from getting out of hand and we can figure out what the issue is. [If you] confront the person, you’re just going to

escalate the issue.”

If you are waiting for a parking spot, turn on the signal to indicate you are going into that space, Martinez recommends.

The campus has 273 faculty, 409 staff, 488 student and 2,774 general parking spaces.

Faculty parking lots are located on Gorgas Drive, behind the Regional Academic Health Center and between the Student Services Center and the Music Building.

Staff lots are located next to the Physical Plant and in the area surrounded by the Old Morgue, Regiment House, Commissary Building and Commissary Annex.

Student parking lots are located behind Eidman Hall and the Guerra Early Childhood Development Center and across the street on Ridgely Road.



KAILA CONTRERAS/COLLEGIAN

The driver of this car used two parking spaces last Thursday in the Barnes & Noble Bookstore parking lot.






Lent begins



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/COLLEGIAN

Bishop Daniel Flores of the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville places the sign of the cross on sophomore health science major Karina Ochoa's forehead in the Student Union's Gran Salón during the Ash Wednesday Mass. More than 150 people attended the Mass. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a period of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter.

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Dancing milestone

Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán to celebrate 25 years of performing

By Cori Aiken

THE COLLEGIAN

This month marks the 25th anniversary of UTB/TSC’s Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán. The dance group will commemorate the milestone in a three-day-long celebration highlighted by a performance featuring current and former students at the Arts Center.

Zelma Mata, associate professor and chair of Health and Human Performance, recalls being approached by students who knew she had a background in dance to start a group on campus. They began to practice, perform and grow with a varied program, but the group had few resources at the beginning, and often had to borrow costumes and props. With the help of the community and fundraising, the group now has an extensive collection of costumes, backgrounds and props.

“It allows us to present many different states from Mexico, which enriches the whole program,” said Mata, who serves as director of the dance group.

With countless performances and memories over the years, there is one that really stands out for Mata.

“It was 2001, the year that the [Queen Isabella] Causeway collapsed. There was no way to cross to [South Padre] Island. We had a performance at the Island for Korean War veterans and I figured we weren’t going to be able to go. Wouldn’t you know it, they had a boat pick us up from Port Isabel. They transported

us, costumes and all.”

There were taxis waiting for the dancers once they arrived. Mata was touched by the veterans’ enthusiasm and their determination to get them there.

“It just goes to show you how important some people feel that what we do is important, to celebrate our heritage and how important it is to share it,” Mata said. “There were people from all over the country. They thoroughly enjoyed the show and we’re so glad we were able to make it.”

With the upcoming separation of UT-Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, Mata is confident that Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán’s mission will stay the same.

“Our work continues regardless of what you want to call us or who we combine with or not,” she said. “We may change where we are located, but our mission to students and our passion for dance does not.”

She hopes that Grupo Folklórico will continue to bring awareness about the rich culture and customs for another 25 years.

“As long as the students want to learn and our community continues to enjoy it, we will continue to forge forward,” Mata said.

The festivities begin with a reunion of former Grupo Folklórico members at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Student Union’s Gran Salón.

At 7 p.m. Feb. 26, a Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 602 E. Elizabeth St.



COLLEGIAN FILE PHOTO

Members of Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán perform a traditional dance from the coastal Mexican state of Nayarit during Fiesta Mexicana, held last September in the Arts Center.

in downtown Brownsville. The Rev. Armand Mathew will officiate and alumna Blanca Olvera will perform traditional songs.

The dance group will be in costume at the Mass, Mata said, and its female members are being asked to wear *rebozos* in the old tradition of the Catholic Church.

At 7 p.m. Feb. 27, there will a special performance at the Arts Center featuring current and former members of the group. The dancers will share the stage, performing

the traditional folk dances of the different regions of Mexico, including Hidalgo, Guanajuato, Sonora, Veracruz, Nuevo León and Jalisco.

“It’s new material and we have been working on this program since the summer,” Mata said. “The students have been working on props, backdrops, and there are female members of the group who are so skilled at braiding hair, they nicknamed them the ‘Trenza Committee.’”

Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán has created a calendar with the

theme “*Por Amor al Folklor*,” or “For the Love of Folklore.” The calendar features dancers wearing regional costumes from Mexico, and the photos were taken by Folklórico member Daniela Martinez. The calendars are being sold for \$10 and the proceeds will go toward paying for costumes and accessories.

For more information about the 25th anniversary festivities or calendar fundraiser, contact Mata at 882-8291 or zelma.mata@utb.edu. For tickets, (\$4 to \$8), call 882-8290.

Songs from the heart

Singer/songwriter Desi Valentine performs his and other artists’ songs during the Cupid’s Corner event held Valentine’s Day in the Student Union’s La Sala. About 200 people attended the event sponsored by Student Life and the Campus Activities Board. Valentine, a native of London, sings pop, funky blues and soul.



BRYAN ROMERO/COLLEGIAN

Poetry, poster contest winners



ALEX RODRIGUEZ/COLLEGIAN

Seven UTB/TSC students placed in the state level of the National Career Development Association Poetry and Poster Contest, which is held every fall. Shown (from left) with their award certificates are Jesus Rodriguez, who won second place for his haiku; Yarden Martinez, second place in the Category 2 poster; Theresa Luna, first place for her poem, “Hope for a Poet”; Sindy Estrella, first place in the Category 1 poster; and Ashley Mendez-Ruiz, second place in Category 2 poster. Other winners were Alfonso Salazar, first place, and Alejandro Huerta, third place, in the Category 1 poster. The students will now advance to the national competition, with winners being announced in April. The contest was sponsored by the Student Success Center.

Note-taking: top 5 tips

By Academic Advising Team

As the Spring 2013 semester progresses, it is imperative that you establish effective study habits that can lead to academic success in the classroom.

Learning how to take lecture notes effectively is the first, basic step college students need to make the transition from high school to college easier. Few people realize how fast memory fades. Studies on memory have shown that, without review, 47 percent of what a person has just learned is forgotten in the first 20 minutes and 62 percent is forgotten after the first day (University of Texas at Austin). Therefore, having good lecture notes to review at a later time can determine how well you are able to perform on exams. Here are the top five tips for effective note-taking:

1. Go to class prepared: By using a three-ring binder instead of a spiral or bound book, pages can be easily removed for reviewing later. In addition, any handouts given in class can be inserted into your notes for cross-referencing, allowing you to incorporate your own out-of-class notes in the correct order as well. Bring highlighters to class. Instructors will frequently make comments like, "This is an important concept." Or, "Make sure you understand this." These are direct clues that this will more than likely be

on an exam. Highlighting these notes will help remind you later that this is definitely something you need to know. Read assigned material and previous class notes before class, making notations about material or concepts you don't understand. Look up vocabulary words that are unfamiliar to you. You will have a better understanding about what the instructor is lecturing about and that will allow you to better decipher the more important points of the lecture.

2. Improve your listening skills: Start by entering the classroom with a positive attitude. Going to class thinking, "This is the last place I want to be today," only sets the stage for inattentive listening. Approaching lectures with a positive attitude allows you to be open-minded and enables you to get the most out of the information presented. Make a conscious effort to pay attention by learning to adapt to whatever direction a lecture takes. When a lecture takes an unexpected detour, say a student asks a question you aren't particularly interested in, students have a tendency to "zone out." Before you know it, the lecture got back on track five minutes ago, and you missed crucial information that should have been noted. Concentrate on concentrating!

3. Develop a note-taking method that works for you: Fine-tune the structure and organization of your notes to increase your note-taking speed and comprehension later. Start each new lecture on a new page, dating and numbering each page. The sequence of material is important. Leave blank spaces in between important content areas. This allows you to add comments or note questions later. Make your notes as brief as possible. Develop a system of abbreviations and symbols you can use wherever possible. Note all unfamiliar vocabulary or concepts you don't understand. This reminds you to look them up later.

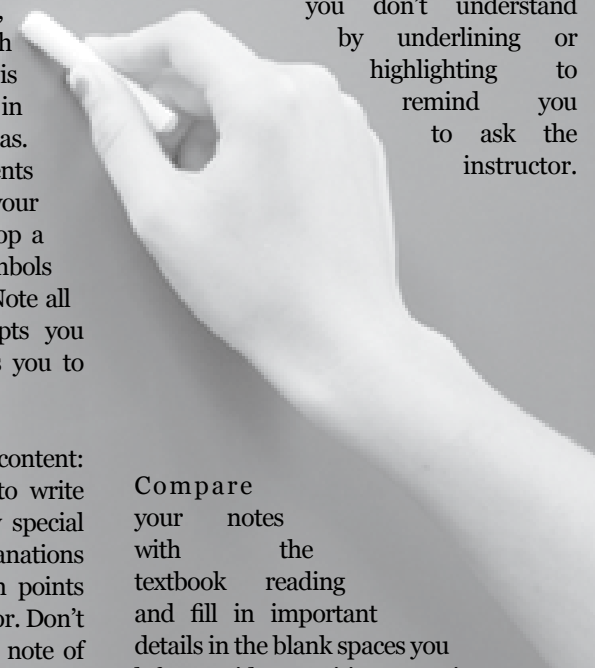
4. Play close attention to content: Knowing what and how much to write down is sometimes difficult. Pay special attention to details, facts or explanations that expand or explain the main points that are mentioned by the professor. Don't forget to use examples by taking note of material written on the chalkboard or on a transparency, including drawings or charts.

5. Review and edit your notes: Academic skills centers and other authorities on effective study skills consider reviewing and editing class notes

to be the most important part of note-taking and essential to increasing learning capacity. Edit words and phrases that are illegible or don't make sense. Write out abbreviated words that might be unclear later. Fill in key words and questions in the left-hand column. Note anything you don't understand by underlining or highlighting to remind you to ask the instructor.

Compare your notes with the textbook reading and fill in important details in the blank spaces you left. Consider rewriting or typing up your notes. *It is extremely important to review your notes within 24 hours of attending class!*

Reference: <http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Resources/Clearinghouse/View-Articles/Academic-Support-Resource-Links.aspx>



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BACKGROUND PHOTO:

Elizabeth Street is the main street in downtown Brownsville.

STACY G. FOUND/COLLEGIAN PHOTOS



Pedestrians walk along Elizabeth Street last Wednesday in downtown Brownsville, which is steps away from Mexico.



Although there are many empty buildings in downtown Brownsville, many people still shop, eat or go for a walk there.



Tina's Restaurant is open from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday and 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.



Families and friends gather for breakfast at Tina's Restaurant located at 956 E. Levee St.



Mercado Juárez is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



People shop for Mexican artisan goods last Thursday at Mercado Juárez, located at the corner of East Elizabeth and 10th streets. The original market is located in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

WRITER

Continued from Page 1

of about 30 people, adding that he would not leave his room if it was too cold.

"Consequently, I missed a lot of classes but I wrote a lot of stuff, and it was the place that I wrote my first novel," Martinez said, referring to "Crossing," which is about undocumented workers who get trapped in a railroad car and slowly suffocate.

He said his inspiration for writing "Crossing" was that for the first time he had to leave home and go to a place where he didn't know the culture and where he was looked at as being strange.

"I didn't even know I was Mexican until I went to Columbus," Martinez said. "That maybe sounds weird, but I grew up in San Antonio, on the West Side, and it just was what you were. ... I had people who asked me, 'Are you Japanese? What are you?' They couldn't quite figure it out."

He finished the two-year program in nine months and returned to Texas. He said every time he leaves the state, he tells himself he will return.

But 25 years later, he remains in the Midwest, although most of what he writes about is centered in South Texas.

Martinez read from his upcoming book, "Los Duros," based on his work with migrant students in Southern California.

"It's a very vastly shocking place in the sense that Palm Springs and the area where Los Duros is has the richest concentration of millionaires in the United States. It's incredibly wealthy. ... You've got these very wealthy families and then you've got the people who do the labor—and they're all Mexican, for the most part," he said.

Martinez said he grew up fairly poor but when he arrived to the area, "it really was shocking, even though I know ... what the poverty rates are. ... But I hadn't seen it ... especially when it's juxtaposed with this kind of wealth."

He said some of the laborers work all day and live in parking lots.

"Some of these people are obligated to live in terrible conditions," Martinez told his audience. "[My wife] said, 'You should write about it.' And it hadn't really occurred to me until then."

His experiences in the *colonias* inspired him to write "Los Duros."

After reading a passage from the upcoming novel, Martinez explained how his friend wrote a grant proposal to buy the

students video equipment. After being taught to use the equipment, the kids worked on a documentary depicting their daily lives.

"It is very raw. It is a very powerful short movie," Martinez said.

He further explained that, after a teacher submitted the 11-minute documentary to a contest, the video caught the attention of many people. The local PBS station showed it afterward. The *Los Angeles Times* sent a reporter and within four to five months, illegal trash burning and dumping that was taking place in Los Duros shut down.

"They found over 65,000 tons of toxic material was buried," Martinez told the audience. "That whole change brought some attention to this environment. People can still make a difference and people can still make change."

The author then recited a section from a work in progress inspired by his stepfather.

"He was a really great man," Martinez said. "I have four siblings that are younger than me and he raised all of us. He was just really one of the best people that I've ever known and the smartest man I've ever known."

He explained that his stepfather had spent about 10

years in jail.

"He'd been a heroin addict as a young man, had been abused mostly by his dad, who would beat him fiercely," Martinez said. "... He had a very troubled life up until the point in which he was in a head-on collision and shattered his legs in about 17 places and was told he would never walk again. It was during that time that he kind of had to face his demons. He wound up dying by cirrhosis of the liver because he contracted hepatitis when he was a young man."

He explained how his mother went into a deep depression after his stepfather died. He was so concerned that he took time off from teaching to spend six months with his mother. During the same time, the author was undergoing problems of his own.

"For about 10 years, I had four surgeries on my legs because I had been a runner for a long time and I had been on crutches for about six years," Martinez said. "I kept having to have surgery after surgery. ... They had to rebuild my foot. They took my foot, my right foot, and they cut all the way around it, detached my heel from my foot, detached the Achilles tendon from there and moved my heel over about a quarter of an inch, and then bolted it back onto my foot and then took the tendons

that ran from the top of my foot and rearranged them into my foot, then sewed it all back up."

Eventually, Martinez's mother began dating a bodybuilder who would take her riding in his motorcycle.

"Just as the same time that I saw her taking off, then I started to realize that my foot was getting better and I was able to get around again," he said. "I'm going to write a book which is about the most resilient muscle there is—which is the heart."

Jose Medina, a freshman physics major who attended the lecture, said of Martinez: "He writes with experience and incorporates what he feels in the visual presentation of a story. I admire his way of writing."

Christopher Carmona, a lecturer in UTB/TSC's English Department who helps coordinate the series, said the program looks for authors who can relate to the student population.

"His work [deals] with a lot of immigrants, *Mexicanos* and Latinos," Carmona said.

Jan E. Seale, the 2012-2013 Texas Poet Laureate, who is the author of eight poetry volumes, several works of short fiction and essays, will be the series' next featured speaker at 7:30 p.m. March 25 in the Gran Salón.

SITES

Continued from Page 1

the president’s office said García was “out of town and traveling.” A person who answered the phone in the provost’s office said Artibise was in meetings all day.

The proposed sites are listed in the order that the responses were received:

- 38.2 acres bounded on the north by East University Boulevard and being out of the Veterans International Trade Center Phase IV; plus Lots 1-5, Block 1, Bella Vista Third Addition; plus about 6.73 acres known as the Veterans Trade Center at 2400-2500 Courage Road;

- 370 acres bounded on the west by the U.S. 77/83 frontage road and on the north by Iowa Gardens Road or, alternatively, between approximately 212 and 432 acres in various configurations, with the western boundary approximately one mile east of the intersection of Texas 100 and the U.S. 77/83 frontage road and the southern boundary along Texas 100;
- 240 acres bounded on the west by Old Alice Road and located at the easternmost terminus of Sports Park Boulevard;
- 400 to 700 acres bounded on the west by the U.S. 77/83

frontage road and located at the easternmost terminus of Rancho Viejo Drive;

- 321.687 acres out of a 568.836-acre tract bounded on the north by Farm to Market Road 1732 and located about one mile west of U.S. 77/83 and within Share 14 of the Espiritu Santo Grant;
- 200 to 372 acres in Amigoland Subdivision, Section II, Units E, J, and I, and in University Plaza Subdivision, Phase I;
- 11.43 acres consisting of Lots 1-5, 8-10, Block 4, and Lot 3, Block 3, University Park Subdivision, Section 1;
- 292 acres consisting of multiple parcels located on Alton Gloor Boulevard/Dr.

Hugh Emerson Road between Paredes Line Road and Cavazos Road;

- 400 to 450 acres in various configurations out of a 1,350-acre tract located at the southeast corner of Texas 100 and the U.S. 77/83 frontage road;
- 200 acres out of a 434.69-acre tract of land in Rincon Subdivision and bounded on the west by Old Alice Road;
- 201.2 acres consisting of: 47.96 acres out of Banco 122 Lozano Banco 137 and bounded on the north by West University Boulevard; 84.70 acres out of Jeronimo Banco 131 and bounded on the north by East University Boulevard; 21.5 acres out of

Espiritu Santo Grant Share 19 and bounded on the north by West University Boulevard; Lot 15, Block 1, Veterans International Trade Center Phase I; Reserve A, Veterans International Trade Center Phase IV; Lot 3, Block 4, Veterans International Trade Center Phase IV; and 7.188 acres located at the westernmost terminus of Ringgold Road and formerly known as 340 and 344 Porter Dr.; and

- 533 E. 13th St. and 1350 E. Washington St.

The UT System will build a new campus for UT-Brownsville, which is ending its partnership with Texas Southmost College in 2015.

FACULTY

Continued from Page 3

structure which was very much faculty driven and faculty organized.”

In 1991 there was a “surprise” change, he said. First, there was the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund lawsuit, which argued there were not enough educational opportunities available in South Texas.

“As a part of this,” Davis said, “the partnership between UTB and Texas Southmost College came into force. It was a surprise for faculty.”

At the time there were a few faculty members from Pan American University-Brownsville and many more community college faculty.

“It was wrenching change,” Davis said. “One of my colleagues at the time said it was like a minor league ball team that had been bought out by another owner and we changed our logo and our culture very, very quickly.”

He said the partnership was sold locally as a way of increasing resources to the Rio Grande Valley and to Austin as a way of saving the state money.

“You can see where there’s an inherent conflict there,” Davis said. “But at the time that we entered into this, there were a series of ‘partnership implementation action committees.”

These committees consisted of faculty, administrators and community leaders. One of the items dealt with at the time were ‘pipeline’ people, community college faculty who had master’s degrees, bachelor’s or associate’s degrees and finding a way to move them into the new community university that was being established.

“Faculty made recommendations and those recommendations, though, had the force of the fact that we were an integral part of the university,” Davis said.

An academic senate was elected and formed committees within academic departments and sat on committees of the Texas Southmost College board of trustees.

“At this time, we didn’t have anything other than the ability to make recommendations,” Davis said. “But we stuck to that in that we were never going to allow it to happen to where somebody else would finagle it to say ‘make the recommendation we want you to make.’ We would make the best recommendation we could and then let the chips fall where they may.”

He said there was an enormous growth in academic programs.

“We began to talk about 20,000 students by the year 2010,” Davis said. “Sometimes, if you really want a good, amusing read, read the past plans from years past. They don’t always turn out the way that you might expect them.”

At the state level, there was a push to have faculty and students sit on the board of regents.

In 1997, a state legislator believed faculty were entrenched and unresponsive and called for post-tenure review.

Davis said he wrote an article on academic freedom and tenure that was published in the local newspaper and in other publications.

“Academic traditions such as collegiality, academic freedom and tenure have evolved over time and with good reason,” he read from the article. “Academics play a dual role as both servants to and critics of society. Tenure secures for society the benefits of scholarship and provides a sanctuary for the genuinely free expression of ideas. All Americans have rights to free speech. Academics have developed even greater safeguards because open discourse is not simply allowed in our profession, it is required. ... Tenure has come to provide shelter from the sometimes stifling impulses of both the public and the university bureaucracy.”

Davis said tenure allows him, when necessary, to disagree reasonably and effectively with colleagues who hold administrative positions above him and not forfeit his job.

“The upshot of this post-

tenure review is what we’ve got today, which is a kind of a continuation. We have maintained the accountability, but we also have the tenure process,” he said.

From the 1990s to the early 2000s, Davis said, was a period of “erosion” of influence with a decrease in formula funding and a conservative mistrust.

He cited Benjamin Ginsberg’s 2011 book “The Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why It Matters,” which notes that over a 20-year period, the number of faculty grew 51 percent; administrators, 85 percent; and other professionals, 240 percent.

“The university is becoming less and less this body of faculty and more and more individuals who are doing other kinds of things that are maybe not a part of teaching or service or research,” Davis said.

He said his own study of UTB/TSC over a 20-year period found that the number of faculty doubled, but the student body grew by a factor of three, the administrative structure grew by a factor of four and the budget by a factor of five.

At the same time there was a fragmentation of the school’s mission. It was trying to be a community college with open admissions that also had graduate programs.

“But the culture of the two was very difficult and the governance was very difficult, as well,” Davis said.

He said the graduation rate was “very explicable” for a community college but “indictable” as a university.

In 2009, Alan Artibise joined UTB/TSC as its new provost “with much more of a corporate ethos,” which concerned the faculty. There was also a committee of the TSC board of trustees and UTB administration “trying to hammer out a new partnership agreement.” The faculty made a statement to that committee seeking “participatory governance.”

“We know that partnership agreement failed,” Davis said. “When the document came out, I looked at it from

a faculty governance point of view. I wasn’t happy with it. I didn’t feel like those kinds of affirmations that we were looking for were included. But the Texas Southmost College board of trustees absolutely hated it. From that, the schism began.”

He said at this time there was a split between the UTB/TSC faculty and the board of trustees. The faculty was the lowest paid in the state and was no longer involved in board politics.

“Not caring very much with a few hundred votes in a town where very few people voted for some board elections, the board changed and led us into the kind of catastrophic times with which we’re living now.”

He compared 2011 to the “perfect storm,” referring to the UTB/TSC breakup.

“Now UTB is going to be half the size it was, so that means you’re going to have to let people go. ... We’re losing half our students, we’ve lost 22 percent of our faculty,” Davis said.

He also said the university tried to set up departmental review committees and tried to have some procedural justice that was recognized as aboveboard.

“That was partially successful,” Davis said. “... There were many individuals who had serious, serious arguments with some of the decisions that were made.”

He said there was a loss of tenured positions and technical people.

“But this was not done under the process of financial exigency,” Davis said. “This was done in a different kind of way. They came up with a process for that, but we’re still dealing with those ramifications.”

He said if people think that “times are strange and in turmoil today, they are, but they’ve always been in my time here.”

Davis said there is a new faculty senate now, and it has changed from a dialogue between faculty and administrators “to a more pure form and more in keeping with universities across the state.” He said the senate is working

on a new core curriculum.

“And now we’ve got the UT to be named,” he said, referring to plans to create a new University of Texas school in the Rio Grande Valley. “What is that going to mean for us? Well, we don’t know.”

Davis said he has looked at House Bill 1000, which proposes the merger of UT-Brownsville and UT-Pan American.

“Their treatment and mention of faculty is very, very brief and it ranges from what I would call discomfoting to what someone else might call contemptuous of faculty tenure and the governance process,” he said of the bill’s language.

Davis said there is an effort to try to get clarification or changes in the bill.

Davis said Ginsberg preaches “involvement,” which is what Professor Luis Rodriguez-Abad, Associate Professor Suzanne LaLonde and Assistant Professor Mark Horowitz are calling for.

“Luis talked about ... that we’re trying to make our students a more complete person, Mark talks about this kind of civic awareness that needs to be a part of our involvement. ... Suzanne talked about being heard and the connections with our students and with the people around us,” Davis said. “I think part of this is also is to avoid ... the idea of making the faculty and the administration a kind of caste system—that if you’re really good at managing things, you become an administrator and if you’re not, you’ll just be a teacher. I think that people that are scholars and teachers ... need to take their role in governance very seriously, put in their time, play leadership roles in committees.”

He said the “citizen scholar” will be the connection “that we make either on campus or outside of campus to get us through these times.”

Other topics in the symposium were “The University: A Thousand- Year-Old Tradition,” by Rodriguez-Abad; “Higher Education: Commodity or Community,” by Horowitz; and “An Apologia for Humanities,” by LaLonde.

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Women take 6th place in Laredo

694 score an improvement over last year

By Michelle Espinoza
THE COLLEGIAN

UTB/TSC golfer Alaine Muro scored the best among the women’s golf team with a two-day total of 162 at the Jack Brown Memorial tournament last Tuesday in Laredo.

The women’s team placed sixth in the tournament hosted by Texas A&M International University at the Laredo Country Club.

Muro, a sophomore, tied for seventh place out of 46 players with scores of 83/79. Last year, she shot 90/84.

The team shot 349 on Feb. 11 and 345 on Tuesday for a total score of 694 through 36 holes.

“Overall, the golf was decent,” Head Coach Anthony Lopez told *The Collegian* in a phone interview Wednesday. “We just need to, you know, for our next tournament we can’t make those types of errors but ... overall, things were good.”

Lopez said the team has improved from last year’s performance at the same tournament.

“Our scores individually and as a team are substantially

better. That’s what I’m most excited about,” Lopez said.

The University of Incarnate Word won the tournament with a score of 637.

Both the men and women’s golf teams headed to another tournament last Sunday in Victoria for the Claud Jacobs Invitational tournament hosted by the University of Houston-Victoria. Results were not available at press time.

In other Athletics Department news, Head Coach Dan Balaguero announced that tryouts for the university’s new cross country team will be March 9. Competition will start next



Dan Balaguero

fall semester. The tryouts are open to all high school and current college students.

Women will run a five-kilometer (3.1 mile) course while men will run an eight-



COURTESY PHOTO

UTB/TSC sophomore golfer Alaine Muro is shown at a golf tournament last fall. Last Tuesday, Muro placed seventh among 46 players at the Jack Brown Memorial Tournament, hosted by Texas A&M International University in Laredo.

kilometer (five-mile) course, according to a news release from the department. The women’s tryout begins at 8 a.m. and men will follow at 9 a.m. All runners must arrive 45 minutes early to complete

waivers and warm up. The surface will be a mix of dirt and pavement.

Registration will be held at the Recreation, Education and Kinesiology Center. For more information about

the tryouts, call Balaguero at 882-7386 or Athletics Director Todd Lowery at 882-8912.



BRYAN ROMERO/COLLEGIAN

Name: Chris Porteous
Classification: Sophomore
Major: Marketing
Sport: Golf
Hometown: Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
Who is your favorite athlete? [Pro golfer] Dustin Johnson. I’ve just grown up liking him, works for the same company as I did, TaylorMade Adidas.” Johnson, a native of Columbia S.C., won the 2013 Hyundai Tournament of Champions and attended Coastal Carolina University.
Who is your role model? “Probably my parents; they brought me up the right way and I look up to what they both do.”
What do you like to do for fun? “Probably golf, that’s all I

Athlete of the Week

really do. Play hockey. Hockey and golf are the two main sports that I play.”

When did you begin playing golf and why? “I started playing golf when I was 3. My dad has been in the golf business his whole life, so he kind of pushed it on us and then I didn’t take golf seriously, though, until I was about 14 years old.”

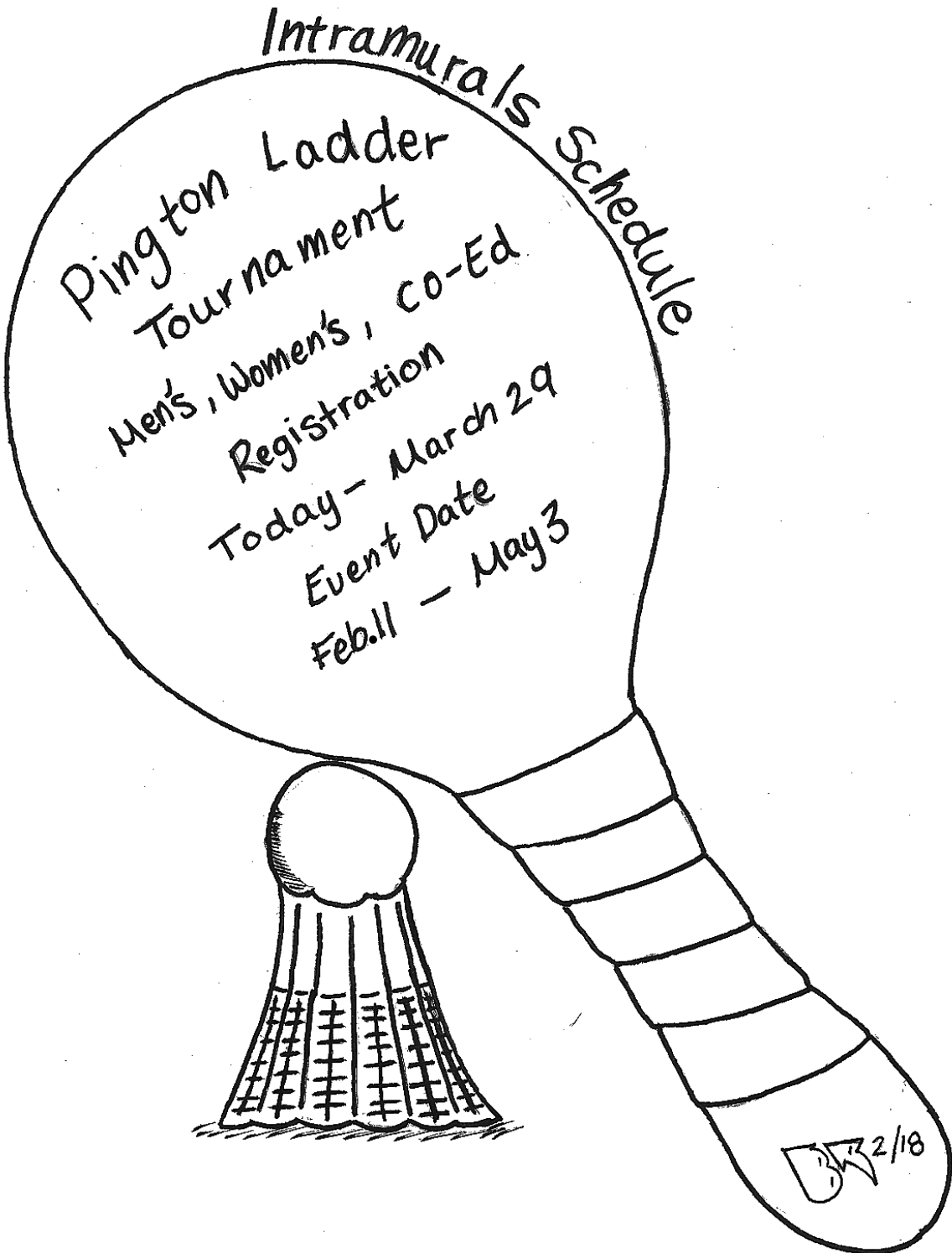
Did you play golf in high school and did you get any awards? “I won provincials in my grade 11, grade 12 year and then individually placed second in the province for my grade 10 year.”

What is your favorite movie? “‘Transformers’ [series]. As a kid I watched the cartoon; once they came out with the movies, I just fell in love with those movies.”

What are your goals for this season? “Play the best that I can and, obviously, shoot my career low and, hopefully, get the team to a national spot.”

Is there a song that gets your head in the game? “Not one that comes to mind. Mostly any kind of country music will do it.”

--Compiled by Kaila Contreras



La pasión de Boullosa por Texas

La escritora presentó su libro más reciente en el campus

Por Viridiana Zúñiga
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

El “héroe con fisuras” que surgió del dolor de un país que había sido partido en dos, se inmortaliza en “Tejas”, la más reciente novela de la célebre escritora mexicana Carmen Boullosa, quien hizo una magistral visita al campus, el 7 de febrero, en el marco del XI Congreso Binacional “Letras en el estuario”.

Boullosa—dramaturga, narradora, poeta y autora de más de 30 obras literarias, entre las que destaca “Antes” (1989), por la que obtuvo el prestigioso premio Xavier Villaurrutia—presentó, ante una multitud, su obra “Tejas”, que relata las aventuras y desventuras de Juan Nepomuceno Cortina, un personaje literario, inspirado en el personaje histórico, que vivió en la época de la anexión del estado mexicano de Texas a Estados Unidos.

“Mi novela ‘Tejas’ ocurre en Brownsville. Es mi mejor novela,



VIRIDIANA ZÚÑIGA/FOTOS COLLEGIAN

Mahelet Orozco, estudiante graduada, espera que Carmen Boullosa le autografie su libro, durante la firma de autógrafos que tuvo lugar al término del Congreso “Letras en el estuario” el 7 de febrero.

la más mía; donde todos mis demonios, mis musas, hadas, miedos, preguntas, entendimientos, dudas intelectuales de la vida, se han puesto en encuentro”, dijo la escritora. “Y aquí estoy, donde viví una agitada y reñida *lifelong* existencia mientras escribía ‘Tejas’. Visito la tierra que hizo dura mi cabeza”.

Oriunda de la ciudad de México, Boullosa estudió lengua y literatura hispánica en la Universidad Iberoamericana y en la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Sus obras se han traducido a diez idiomas distintos y existen más de 60 disertaciones sobre su trabajo. Fue nombrada por

la organización PEN International, dedicada a promover la literatura y a defender la libertad de expresión, como una de las cinco escritoras de clase mundial, siendo la única de América Latina.

Su novela “La otra mano de Lepanto” (2005) es considerada como una de las mejores obras literarias de los últimos 20 años.

Fungió como profesora en la Universidad de Nueva York, Columbia, La Sorbonne, Georgetown, la Universidad Estatal de San Diego, e impartió cátedra en Oxford, Cambridge, Heidelberg, Freie Universität, Brown, UCLA, Yale, la biblioteca del Congreso y en la UNAM, entre otras.

Como copresentadora de City University Television de Nueva York ha recibido cuatro premios Emmy en la ciudad.

Su novela “Las paredes hablan” (2010) se estrenó como película en las salas de cine en el 2011.

“Tejas” comenzó a escribirse cuando Boullosa se topó con el nombre de Nepomuceno Cortina, un importante terrateniente texano que luchó contra las fuerzas de Zachary Taylor, en defensa del estado mexicano de Texas; asimismo organizó las llamadas “Guerras de Cortina” para evitar que a los texanos/mexicanos se les despojara de sus tierras cuando Texas ya formaba parte de Estados Unidos.

“Investigando sobre Nepomuceno mordí el anzuelo de Texas, el Texas mexicano, el primero, el Texas novohispano, el de los búfalos o bisontes, el de los vaqueros, el de los apaches, el de los bandidos, el de los pastos diversos y demás”, dijo la autora.

Mientras Boullosa leía ejemplares del New York Times en los que llamaban bandido a Cortina, esta se encontró con un personaje clave de la historia, Charles Stillman, el fundador de Brownsville.

Interesado por las tierras del matamorens José Narciso Cavazos, Stillman ofreció a sus herederos pagar \$33,000 por ellas, aun cuando estas valían \$214,000. La familia Cavazos aceptó la oferta, sin embargo, Stillman nunca les pagó, de acuerdo a la Asociación Histórica del Estado de Texas. Este hecho incrementó las ansias de Cortina por poner un alto al despojo incontrolable de tierras mexicanas por parte de los estadounidenses. Sin embargo, la primera trifulca comenzó en 1859, cuando Cortina le disparó al alguacil de Brownsville Robert Shears al intentar defender a su ex-empleado que estaba siendo maltratado.

“Lo que me hacía al personaje más atractivo era que no fuera bonito, que fuera un héroe con fisuras, que tuviera claroscuros”, dijo Boullosa. “El novelista tiene que enamorarse de su objeto de deseo, pero también debe de ser reticente, desconfiado, lejano. Esa combinación es importante o fundamental para que la novela no caiga plana, en sentimentalismos o en unos cuchitriles de desgastes dejándola sin razones”.

La escritora convirtió a Cortina, a Shears, a Stillman y a su esposa Elizabeth en personajes de ficción e hizo de sus vidas una novela que compartieron con otros 120 personajes y que de desarrolla en “Brunville” y “Matasánchez”.

“Ese amor que yo empecé a sentir por él, esa atracción, esa pasión que comenzó creyendo que era por Juan Nepomuceno,



La escritora Carmen Boullosa presenta su libro “Tejas” ante alumnos y profesores de UTB/TSC durante el XI Congreso Binacional “Letras en el estuario”, el 7 de febrero en el Salón Cassia.

se convirtió en un amor, casi diría yo en una pasión conyugal, y fue amor por Texas, la Texas de 1859”, dijo Boullosa.

Previo a la participación de la autora en el Congreso, se expusieron ensayos, narrativas, poesías y se expuso el libro “Brevedad Urbana”, una compilación de Ramiro Rodríguez que, según Alja Ediciones, compila relatos de diversos escritores relacionados con Tamaulipas, entre ellos Víctor H. Orduña y Conchita Hinojosa, quienes expusieron la obra junto con el compilador.

Entre otros participantes se encuentran el profesor de UTB/TSC y organizador del evento Juan Antonio González, Joaquín Peña Arana, Lino García, Elvia Ardalini, Julie Corpus, Ramiro Rea, Roberto de la Torre, Mercedes Torres, Javier Villarreal, Gloria Rodríguez, Viviana Carvajal y Aracely Álvarez.

Al término del evento, Boullosa ofreció una firma de autógrafos. “Tejas” está a la venta en la librería Barnes & Noble por un precio de \$25.

Nombre: Vanja Joksic
Edad: 22 años
Especialidad: Negocios internacionales
Clasificación: Estudiante de último año
País natal: Gornji Milanovac, Serbia
Actividades extracurriculares: Jugadora central del equipo de voleibol
¿Qué idioma hablas? “Serbio, inglés, español, alemán, griego y entiendo el portugués”.
¿Por qué decidiste estudiar aquí? “Quería jugar voleibol en Estados Unidos y tenía una amiga que ya estaba aquí y me recomendó venir. Me puse en contacto con el entrenador”.
¿Qué tradiciones hay en tu país? “Somos ortodoxos. La parte interesante es que nosotros no celebramos Navidad el 25 de diciembre, sino el 6 de enero; así que celebramos año nuevo y después Navidad. Los regalos que ustedes se dan en Navidad, nosotros los damos en año nuevo. Ese día [Navidad] vamos a comer con nuestras familias temprano y en la tarde ponemos un roble, no un pino, después vamos a la iglesia y cenamos en casa”.
Menciona algunos platillos típicos: “Hay un platillo que me encanta que se llama sarma; también comemos frijoles, pero a mí no me gustan. Cuando era niña, mi mamá me obligaba a comerlos, pero no me gustaban, pero cuando llegué aquí los probé y me encantaron. Comemos carne de cerdo, res y oveja. Un plato diario sería una sopa, carne y papas. Hay un postre que se llama palacinke, que son como panqueques delgaditos y les ponemos crema, y después los enrollamos y les ponemos helado encima”.
¿Cuáles son los lugares turísticos? “Tenemos muchas montañas y museos. Hay un volcán y estamos

rodeados de cerros. El país está lleno de lugares históricos. Todos son muy guapos”.

¿Qué diferencias y similitudes encuentras entre tu país y E.E.U.U.? “Igual que aquí, la gente es muy amable y siempre saluda. La diferencia que noto más es que la gente de aquí es muy chaparra. Nosotros no tenemos palmeras como aquí. Otra cosa es que la gente en Serbia habla casi gritando; cuando hablo con mi familia, los que nos escuchan creen que estamos peleando”.

Menciona algunas ideas erróneas que tiene la gente sobre tu país: “Casi siempre confunden a Serbia con Siberia y siempre piensan que hace mucho frío en mi país, pero tenemos todas las estaciones y a veces hace frío, pero no como en Siberia. También preguntan si tenemos tarjetas de crédito o si comemos helados y me da mucha risa y contesto: ‘No, comemos con las manos, nadie tiene donde vivir y dormimos en las calles’. Y nadie sabe dónde está”.

Anécdota: “Pues cuando llegué a Estados Unidos, le mostré mi pasaporte a los de migración y, aun viendo que decía Serbia, me preguntaron que si era de Egipto y le dije que no. Más adelante, el mismo hombre habla con otra persona y le dice: ‘Ella viene de Egipto’. Otra cosa que adoro de haber venido aquí es que, cuando era estudiante de primer año, ganamos el torneo nacional de voleibol. Aún no lo creo; es lo más emocionante que me ha pasado”.

--Recopilado por Viridiana Zúñiga



BRYAN ROMERO/COLLEGIAN